

REMARKS

Applicants have studied the Office Action dated April 21, 2004. Claim 17 has been canceled without prejudice. Claims 9-16 have been amended in order to fall into the category for Group I. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In response to the restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121, Applicants provisionally elect for continued prosecution of the Group I claims (i.e., claims 1-8) drawn to a method for creating/editing usage conditions and Group III claims (i.e., claims 9-16) which have been amended in order to fall into the category of Group I claims. Thus, Applicants request examination of claims 1-8 and 9-16.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's classification of Group III under a Design classification i.e. category D14/348, is not correct. The present invention is a utility not a design patent and each group of claims are to be properly classified as utility. Moreover, Group III claims have been amended to clarify the claims as a computer-readable media or computer program product to carry out the methods of Group I. See MPEP §2106. Accordingly, the Applicants submit, that Group III as amended should be grouped together with Group I for purposes of the Examiner's restriction requirement.

To advance the prosecution of the application, claim 17 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants expressly reserve the right to file a divisional application with respect to this claim at a later date.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application and the claims are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to direct future correspondence regarding this application to the undersigned attorney at the address below.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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